

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number:

BA-2851

Name:

Big Faus Rd. over Gunpowder Faus

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility Recommended ☒ X

Eligibility Not Recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments:

Reviewer, OPS: Anne E. Bruder

Date: 3 April 2001

Reviewer, NR Program: Peter E. Kurtze

Date: 3 April 2001

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BRIDGES
HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY
MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION/
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT No. BA-2851

SHA Bridge No. B0073 Bridge name Big Falls Road over Gunpowder Falls (Big Falls Road Bridge)

LOCATION:

Street/Road name and number Big Falls Road

City/town White Hall Vicinity X

County Baltimore

This bridge projects over: Road ☐ Railway ☐ Water ☒ Land ☐

Ownership: State ☐ County ☒ Municipal ☐ Other ☐

HISTORIC STATUS:

Is bridge located within a designated historic district? Yes ☒ No ☐
National Register-listed district ☐ National Register-determined-eligible district ☐
Locally-designated district ☐ Other ☐
Name of district Gunpowder Falls Historic District

BRIDGE TYPE:

Timber Bridge ☐
Beam Bridge ☐ Truss -Covered ☐ Trestle ☐ Timber-And-Concrete ☐

Stone Arch Bridge ☐

Metal Truss Bridge ☐

Movable Bridge ☐
Swing ☐ Bascule Single Leaf ☐ Bascule Multiple Leaf ☐
Vertical Lift ☐ Retractable ☐ Pontoon ☐

Metal Girder ☐
Rolled Girder ☐ Rolled Girder Concrete Encased ☐
Plate Girder ☐ Plate Girder Concrete Encased ☐

Metal Suspension ☐

Metal Arch ☐

Metal Cantilever ☐

Concrete ☒
Concrete Arch ☒ Concrete Slab ☐ Concrete Beam ☐ Rigid Frame ☐

Other ☐ Type Name _____

DESCRIPTION:**Describe Setting**

Bridge B0073 carries Big Falls Road over Gunpowder Falls in Baltimore County. Big Falls Road runs east and west over the southeasterly flowing Gunpowder Falls. The bridge is located on the very edge of Gunpowder Falls State Park, and is in an area with no residential or commercial development.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

Bridge B0073 is a single span, closed spandrel, concrete rib arch bridge. The total length of the bridge is 82 feet with the clear span measuring 79 feet. The spandrel walls are approximately 4 feet tall and 39 feet wide. The bridge has a rise of approximately 5 feet 4 inches from springline to crown. There is a clear roadway width of 20 feet 1 inch, with an overall bridge width of 22 feet 8 inches. The arch barrel has heavy cracking with visible efflorescence. There are small areas of scale and reinforcement bar exposure at the joint of the parapet and spandrel wall. The spandrel walls have moderate areas of cracking and patched areas from previous repairs. In addition, the walls have areas of efflorescence. According to a 1995 inspection report, the bridge is in fair condition with a sufficiency rating of 22.8.

Bridge B0073 retains its original parapets. There are 3 sections running the length of the bridge, including the wingwalls. The first section includes the endblock over the wingwall and measures 3 feet 8 inches high by 4 feet 11 inches wide at the base. The endblock includes an incised panel that is 11 inches high and 7 feet 4 inches long. The rest of the first section is a closed paneled parapet with 3 incised panels. Each panel measures approximately 5 feet long and 1 foot high. This pattern is repeated in the additional 2 sections with a symmetrical endblock. The bridge has large spalls with rusted reinforcement bar exposed. The bridge has large spalls with exposed, rusting reinforcement bars. The entire section on both sides of the bridge has heavy scaling with medium spalls at the curb lines. In addition, there are fine vertical cracks throughout the bridge's parapets.

Discuss major Alterations:

No major alterations have occurred to this structure.

HISTORY:

WHEN was bridge built (actual date or date range) 1933
 This date is: Actual X Estimated ____
 Source of date: Plaque X Design plans ____ County bridge files/inspection form ____
 Other (specify) _____

WHY was bridge built? To replace an existing structure.

WHO was the designer? George L. Schnader

WHO was the builder? Baltimore County Highways Department

WHY was bridge altered? N/A

Was bridge built as part of organized bridge-building campaign?

Yes, this bridge was built as part of Baltimore County road extensions.

SURVEYOR/HISTORIAN ANALYSIS:

This bridge may have National Register significance for its association with:

A - Events X B- Person ____

C- Engineering/architectural character X

This bridge was determined eligible by the Interagency Review Committee in June 1996.

Was bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history?

It is unknown why the first bridge at this site was built. However, during the early days of improved road construction in Maryland, a policy of building narrow roads and bridges was adopted so that a complete system of highways might be completed within a reasonable time limit and with limited funds. As traffic increased, it became necessary to reconstruct existing roads to greater width and strength. In 1918, the State Roads Commission developed the use of a concrete bridge. This bridge was probably built as part of the State Roads Commission's "Lateral and post Roads Loan of 1920." In 1920, the state received an appropriation of \$3,000,000. The money allowed for the construction of rural post roads, lateral roads, and the extension of the State Roads System with the assistance of funds from the US Government and several counties in the state. The state and counties received funding for lateral road improvements.

Between 1920 and 1935, most of the Baltimore County Highways Department work concentrated on the expansion of the feeder roads to the main arteries being built by the State Roads Commission. Unlike other counties in Maryland during this period, Baltimore County maintained its own roads. Like other counties, Baltimore County has a standing contract with consultants to assist in the design and development of bridges. T.A. Ward was the consultant for this project.

When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth & development of the area?

No, there is no evidence that this bridge had an impact on the growth of the area.

Is the bridge located in an area that may be eligible for historic designation?

Yes, the bridge is located in the Gunpowder Falls Historic District. The bridge is potentially a contributing element to that district.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

Yes, this bridge retains integrity of design and materials, and is a significant example of an early-twentieth century concrete arch bridge.

Does bridge retain integrity of important elements described in Context Addendum?

The bridge retains the integrity of a majority of its character defining elements.

Is bridge a significant example of work of manufacturer, designer and/or engineer?

No, this bridge is not a significant example of the work of a manufacturer, designer, or engineer.

Should bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made?

Yes, this bridge should be given further study to determine if it contributes to the Gunpowder Falls Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

County inspection/bridge files X

SHA inspection/bridge files

Other (list):

SURVEYOR/SURVEY INFORMATION:

Date bridge recorded June 1996

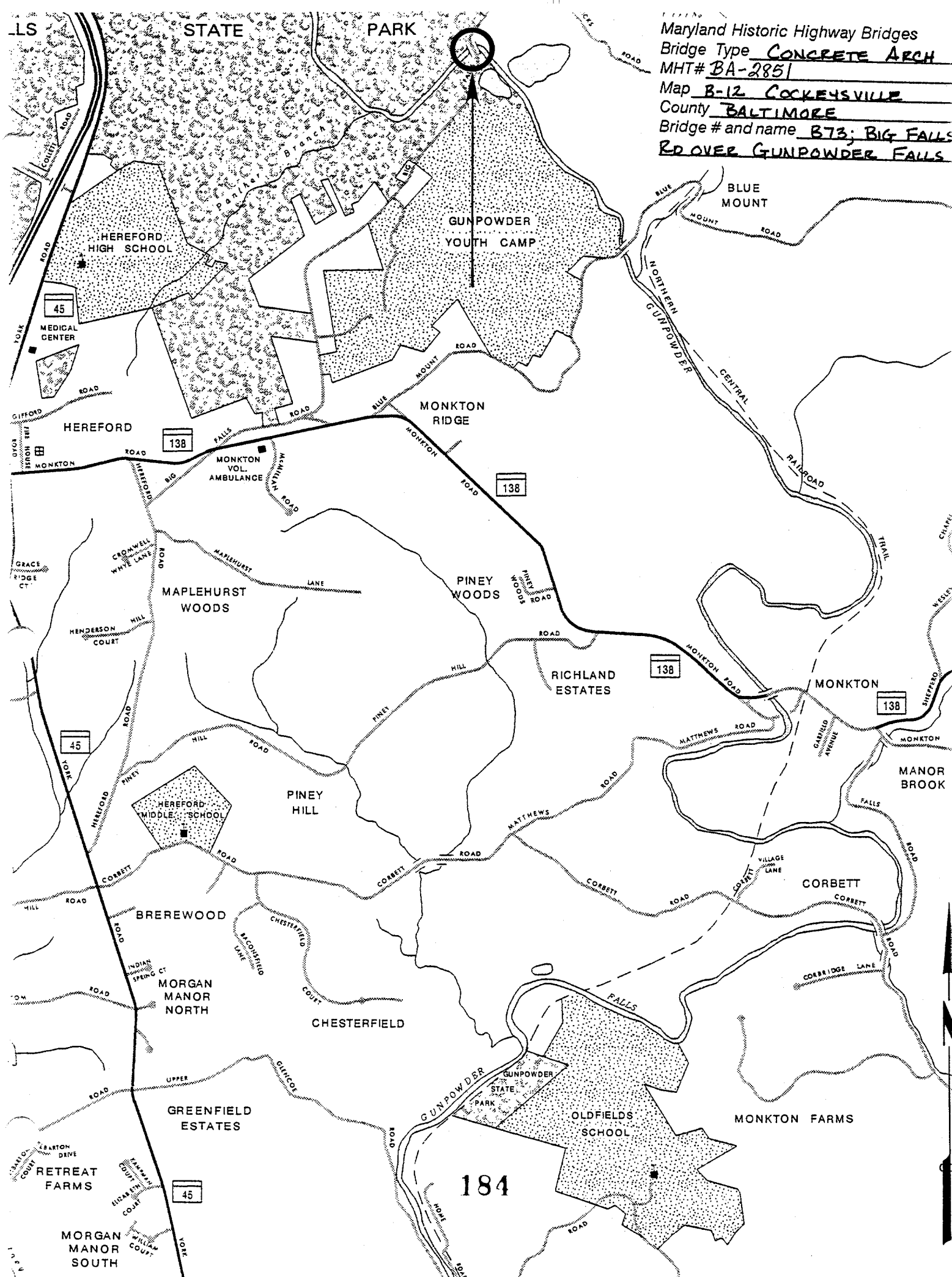
Name of surveyor Stacie Webb

Organization/Address State Highway Administration, 707 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD

Phone number 410-545-8559

Revised by P.A.C. Spero & Company, April 1998

Maryland Historic Highway Bridges
Bridge Type CONCRETE ARCH
MHT# BA-2851
Map B-12 COCKEYSVILLE
County BALTIMORE
Bridge # and name B73; BIG FALLS
RD OVER GUNPOWDER FALLS





Inventory # BA-2851

Name BOOTH- BIG FALLS RD OVER GUNPOWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY /MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description WEST APPROACH LOOKING
EAST

Number 1 OF 4



Inventory # BA-2851

Name BOD 3-BIG FALLS RD OVER GUNAWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description SOUTH ELEVATION LOOKING
NORTHEAST

Num

2 OF 4



Inventory # BA-2851

Name B00T3-BIG FALLS RD OVER GUNPOWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description NORTH ELEVATION LOOKING
SOUTHWEST

Num 3 of 4

DRAWMORE COUNTY
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
BIG FALLS ROAD BRIDGE
1936

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JESSE A. MEYER, Chairman
JAMES A. HAVES, Clerk
WALTER B. MILLER

Inventory # BA-2851

Name BOOT3-BIG FALLS RD OVER GUNPOWDER FALLS

County/State BALTIMORE COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer DAVE DIEHL

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description PLAQUE ON BRIDGE PARAPET

Num

4 OF 4